

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

August 27, 2020

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, August 27, 2020, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Due to COVID19 social distancing orders from the Governor, we held a virtual meeting by ZOOM and by phone. Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the meeting and was present. The following council members were present via ZOOM: Charlie Williams, Paul Nagy, Barbara Grogan, Steve Brock, Anthony Jones, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Casawan Lhuillier-Yheyeis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Glenda Battle, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Tracie Beard, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, John McPhaul, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Revonn Miller, Jon Howard, Jayme Smith, and E. Dice Roberts.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Deidre Evans-Severson, Benny Flowers, Ferrell Ruis, Virginia Hart, Gregg Close, Billy Poppell, Phillip Drew, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Gregg Freeman, Mitchell Blanks, Ernest Johnson, Gregg Satterfield, Christopher Wheeler, and Rodney Prince.

Staff members present were Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, Finance Director Barbara Wilbon, and Executive Assistant Heather White.

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 25 members present representing 12 counties and a quorum was present. Early, Mitchell, and Thomas Counties had 100% representation.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the July 2020 meeting minutes to be approved. Donnie Baggett motioned the minutes be accepted and Ben Hayward seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Elaine Mays stated that the Executive Committee reviewed the FY20 Annual Performance Review Results and voted to present it to the full Council. Mrs. Mays went over the results with the Council with some discussion. Raymond Breaux made the motion to accept the FY20 Annual Performance Review. Normal Gilpatrick seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to give the planning report. The announcement for Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) will be announced in the next few weeks. Mitchell County has two Zoning Reviews. We are awaiting the announcement of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Awards. The Planning Department has been working on a Transit Plan for one county and updating a Regional Transit Plan for another. The Semi-Annual Report for EDA will be due October 30, 2020. CEDS update is due December 2020. The City of Sylvester applied for an EDA Grant for a wastewater treatment plant. Dougherty County and Albany applied for EDA COVID Funding (CARES) and has resubmitted it June 12, 2020. The next Housing Task Force Meeting will be held September 8, 2020. The Housing Conference planned for May 2020 will be virtual. There will be virtual Grant Writing Workshop in October of 2020. Brownfields Coalition Members include Leary, Arlington, Bainbridge, Donalsonville, and Colquitt. The application is due October 28, 2020.

Finance Director Barbara Wilbon presented the Financial Reports for the period ending July 31, 2020 for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a deficit of \$1,982.83 bringing the ending fund balance to \$518,527.01. The Revolving Loan Fund had a deficit of \$704.46 bringing the ending fund balance to \$298,243.54. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of \$63,731.00 bringing the ending fund balance to \$381,613.55. The Defined Benefit Plan had a net surplus of \$28,305.64 bringing the balance to \$888,707.61. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the July 2020 Financial Report and Barbara Grogan seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell presented her Executive Director's Report. Jeff Hamilton stenciled Kebo's rented parking lot spaces and placed signage at the parking lot entrance. Most employees are back at work full time following the COVID 19 quarantine. We still have a couple of employees that are having childcare issues due to the COVID pandemic, so they are working in the office most of the time and on specific days they are working from home. The regional pilot application for AARP Age Friendly and Livable Communities Program is still in process. At the April Executive Committee meeting, the proposal of having a quarterly Council meeting was discussed and everyone agreed it would be tabled until a full Council meeting is held. SOWEGA COA is continuing to operate the "Senior Center Without Walls" program currently. Izzie Sadler's plan is to issue a Request for Proposals around the beginning of September for any entities who are considering operating the program. The GARC Annual Conference in St. Simons has been cancelled this year. Our annual audit will be starting as soon. There will be an Audit committee meeting called within the next month. In the next 30 days Mrs. Angell will begin advertising for a Transportation Director.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell was recognized for her 25 years of service to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. GIS Assistant Jeff Hamilton was recognized for his 20 years of service to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission.

Virtual meetings Mrs. Angell attended were an August 6th GARC meeting, an August 11th EDA CARES Act Post Award Management Meeting, and a DOT Rural Transit Marketing Update meeting. All were held virtually. There are several meetings coming up in August and September that she will attend as well.

Chairman Mays stated if there was no other business, the next meeting will be September 24, 2020. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.



Elaine Mays, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Executive Director